(d) There is no intention of the Government to approach the IMF assistance for India's poverty alleviation programmes.

Recruitment drive by Public Sector Banks

1530. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Public Sector Banks (PSBs) need to hire 5,00,000 people over the next five years to maintain their current growth rates and for this, the recruitment has to go up three to four times;

(b) whether it is also a fact that private banks have grown at 35 per cent per annum and added net additional staff at 43 per cent per annum while PSBs have grown at 17 per cent but reduced their staff strength by 1 per cent per year; and

(c) if so, the steps Government proposes to take to bring about changes in Human Resources policies and recruitment system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Public Sector Banks (PSBs) recruit their staff in line with the manpower and business requirements. It is an ongoing continuous process depending upon their growth in business. It is difficult to assess the quantum of recruitment over the next five years, as it depends upon many factors such as growth of business, branch expansion, attrition, outsourcing of jobs, etc.

(b) Indian Banks' Association has reported that it is a matter of fact that private sector banks, particularly, the new generation private sector banks, have grown at a faster pace and in the process these banks have recruited more number of personnel. In public Sector Banks, there has been marginal reduction in staff strength over the period of four years from 2004—2007 largely owing to automatic, attrition, etc.

(c) In terms of the managerial autonomy granted to the public sector banks by the Government, they enjoy full operational managerial autonomy which includes framing of their own "Human Resources" policies & procedures. The banks with the approval of their respective board can design appropriate policies in the matter, from time to time.

Claims of foodgrains suppliers against the erstwhile Bharat Bank

1531. SHRI BASHISTHANARAIN SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there were some claims made by foodgrains suppliers who migrated from erstwhile Punjab province of Rajkot in India in 1947 on the demand of then Government;

(b) if so, the number of claims settled and pending;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there some claims made by such suppliers which were deposited in the erstwhile Bharat Bank but were neither paid to the claimants nor returned to Government; and

(d) if so, what actions were taken by Government against the bank and who is responsible for payment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) A private firm had claimed that it supplied a total of three wagons of rice from Kamoke (now in Pakistan) to the erstwhile Rajkot State, one wagon each to